

REMARKS

This is intended as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated November 18, 2004, having a shortened statutory period for response set to expire on February 18, 2004. Claims 1-20 are pending in the application and remain pending following entry of this response. Please reconsider the claims pending in the application for reasons discussed below.

Drawing Objections

The drawings have been objected to for minor informalities. The Applicant has addressed these informalities in Replacement drawings submitted herewith. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Objections

Claims 1-11 have been objected to for various informalities. Claim 1 has been amended to address these informalities. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claim 2 has been amended to more clearly define the subject matter claimed. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of this objection.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

Claims 1-4 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by *Yamashita et al.* (USP 5,281,865, hereinafter *Yamashita*). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

"A claim is anticipated only if each and every element as set forth in the claim is found, either expressly or inherently described, in a single prior art reference." *Verdegaal Bros. v. Union Oil Co. of California*, 814 F.2d 628, 631, 2 USPQ2d 1051,

1053 (Fed. Cir. 1987). "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the ... claim." *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). The elements must be arranged as required by the claim,... *In re Bond*, 910 F.2d 831, 15 USPQ2d 1566 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

In this case, *Yamashita* does not disclose "each and every element as set forth" in the rejected claims.

Referring first to claim 1, Applicant submits that *Yamahsita* does not teach a delay element in the form of a transmission gate in a second signal path between second and third nodes, as recited.

Referring next to claim 12, Applicant submits that *Yamahsita* does not teach first and second feedback loops in first and second holding elements that each comprise at least one inverter controlled by the clock signal, as recited.

Therefore, Applicant submits that claims 1, 12, and their dependents are patentable over *Yamahsita* and respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 15-20 are allowed.

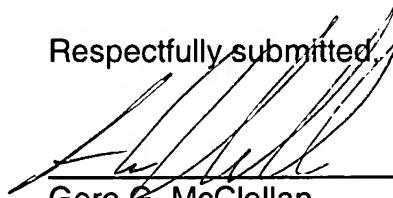
Claims 5-11 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if claim 5 were rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 5 has been rewritten as suggested by the Examiner. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits these claims are allowable and requests withdrawal of this objection.

Conclusion

The secondary references made of record are noted. However, it is believed that the secondary references are no more pertinent to the Applicant's disclosure than the primary references cited in the office action. Therefore, Applicant believes that a detailed discussion of the secondary references is not necessary for a full and complete response to this office action.

Having addressed all issues set out in the office action, Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully requests that the claims be allowed.

Respectfully submitted,



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Annotated Sheet

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FIG 1

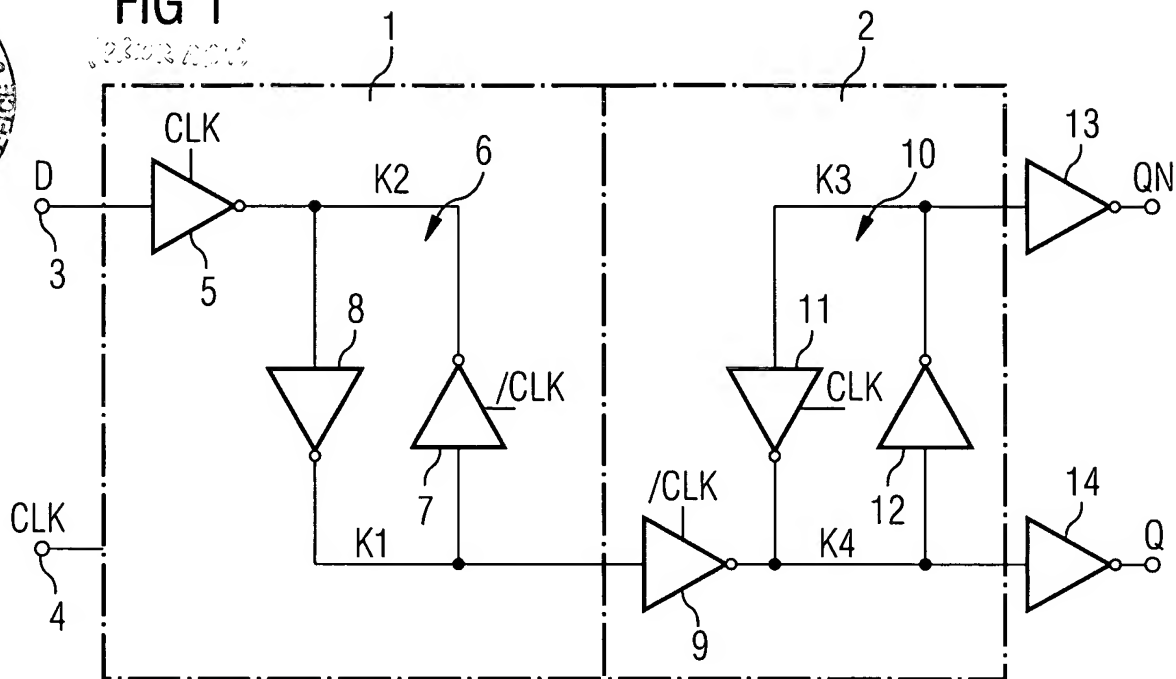
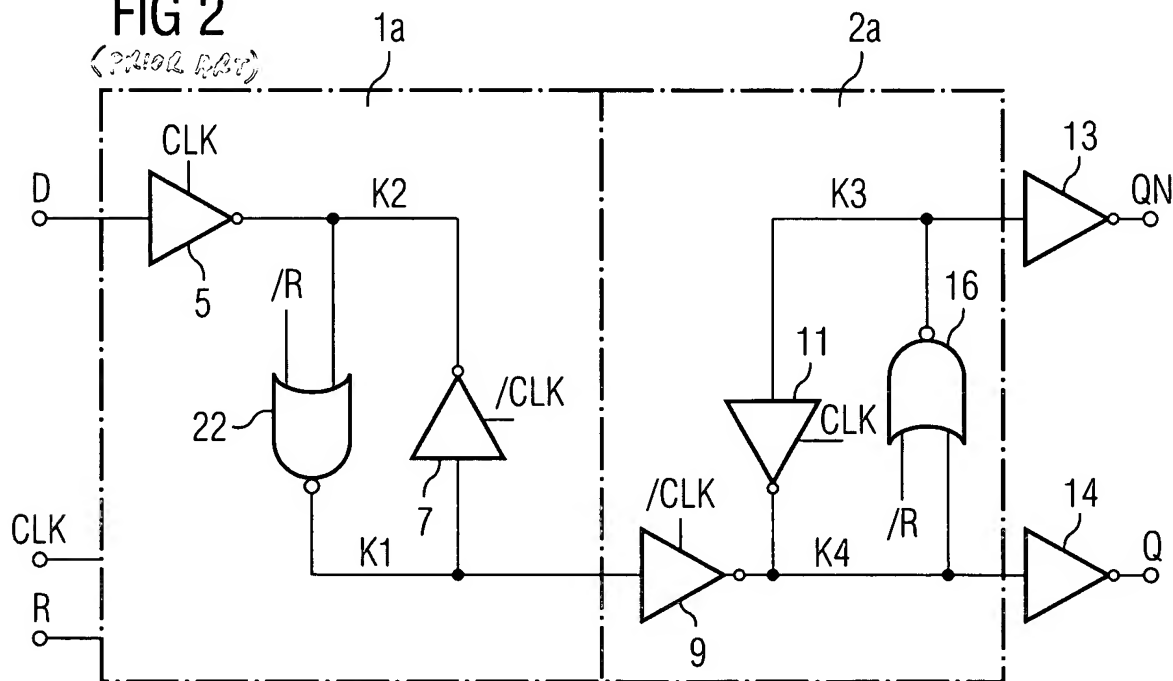


FIG 2



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FIG 3

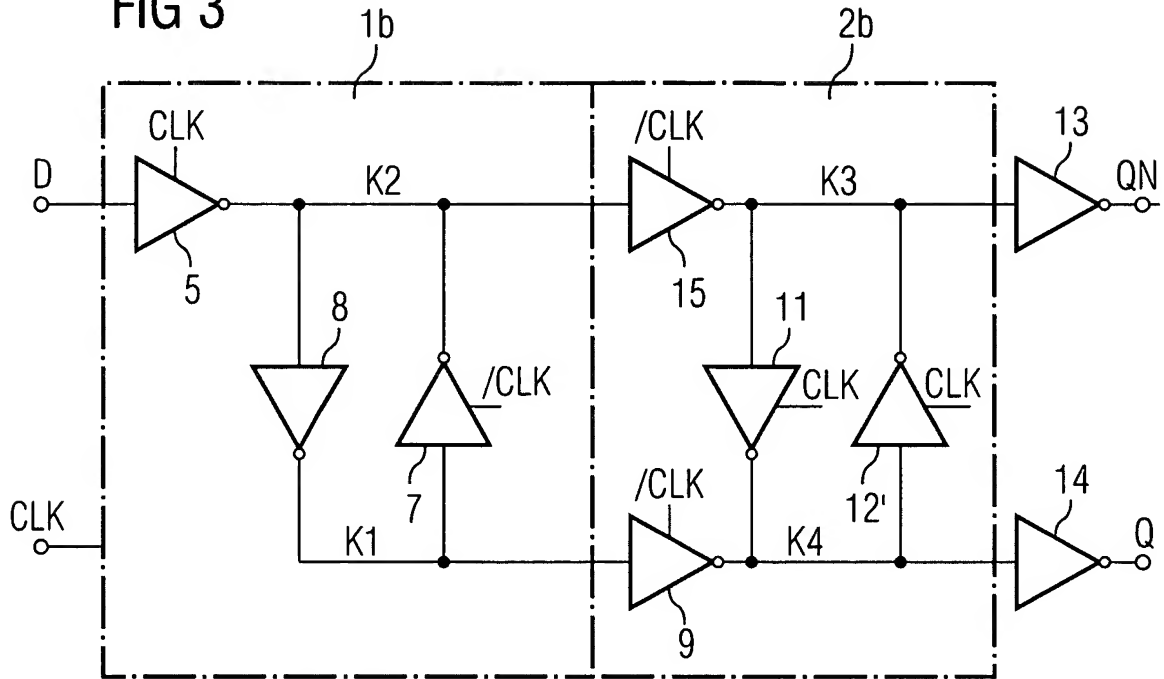
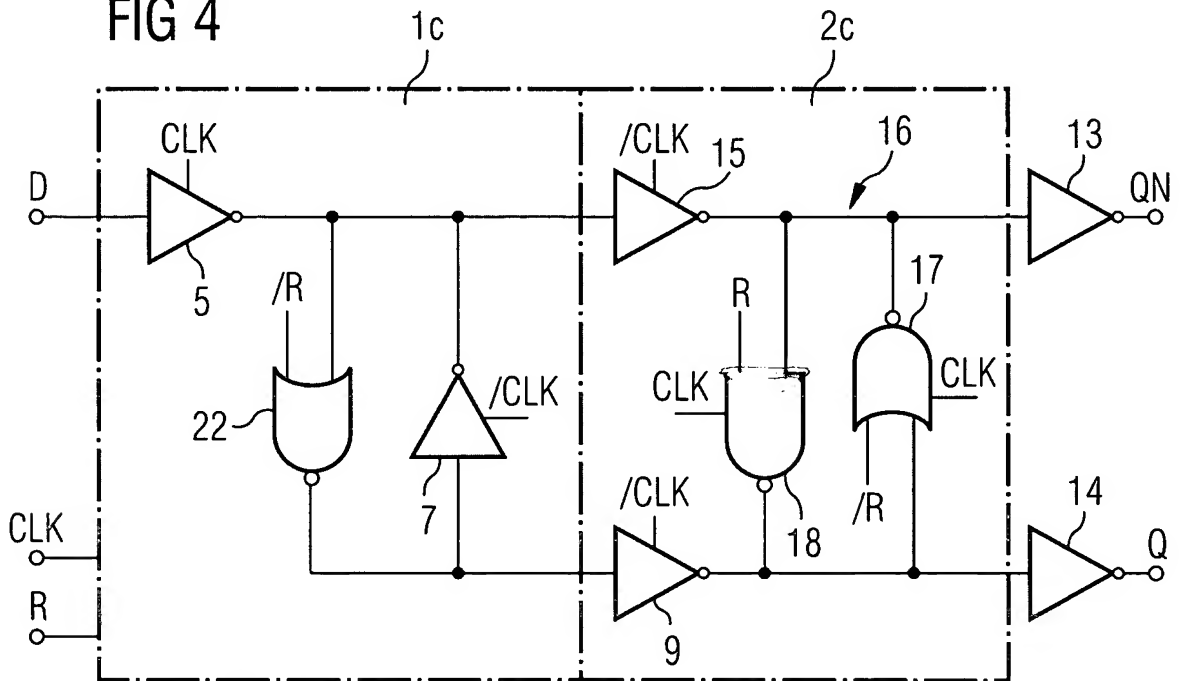


FIG 4



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FIG 7

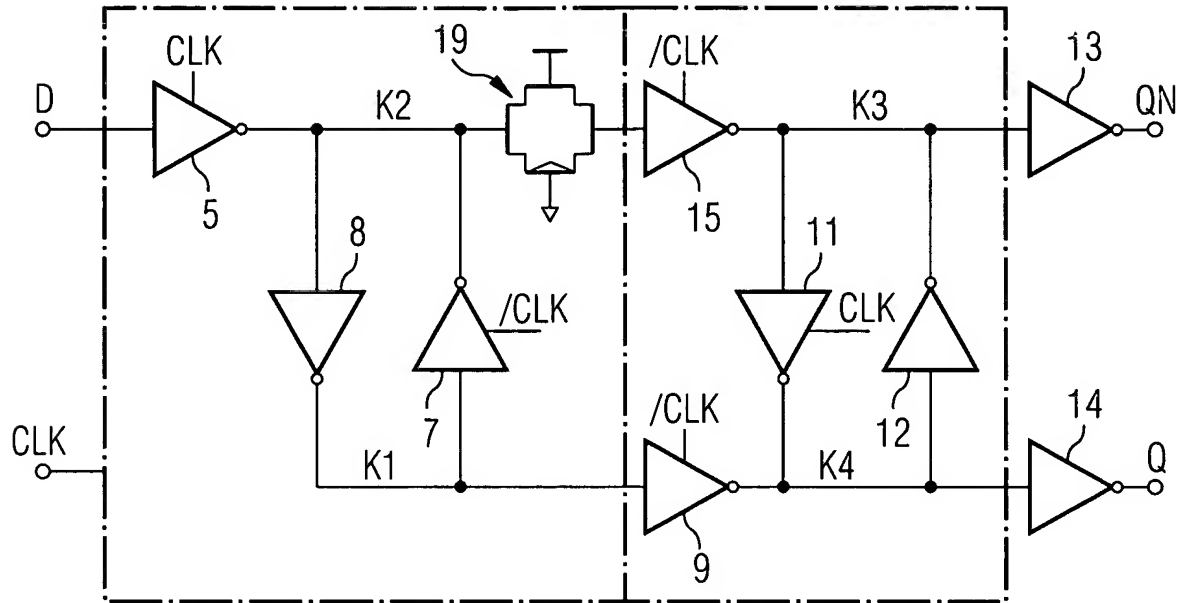


FIG 8

